

Downturn in Markets for Recyclable Materials

January 2009



Recent global economic conditions have resulted in a sudden and dramatic fall in demand and prices for most recyclable products.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency is responsible for regulating the storage, treatment, recycling and disposal of waste in Northern Ireland. NIEA has responded to the environmental challenges created by the recent downturn in markets for recyclable materials by stressing the importance of not allowing the slowdown to affect correct waste treatment and storage, jeopardise recycling targets or lead to the illegal disposal of waste.

NIEA has predicted that it may be necessary to store some recyclable materials until market conditions improve. Waste operators in Northern Ireland must ensure that they continue to comply with the storage capacity conditions of their waste management licence

Operators who hold a licence and expect to need additional storage for a period of up to 6 months may be eligible for a temporary increase in storage of recyclable materials at their site.

If operators expect to need extra storage capacity for longer than 6 months they should apply for a licence variation.

If you require further information or wish to discuss the impact of the downturn in the market for recyclable materials on your business please contact Karen Blair (k.blair@cfrlaw.co.uk) or Maria O'Loan (m.oloan@cfrlaw.co.uk) on (028) 9024 3141.

Please note: The content of this article is for information purposes only and further advice should be sought from a professional advisor before any action is taken.